



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 04-16-2008

MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 16, 2008

Members Present: Barbara Cutler, Barbara Jones, Janice Dallas, Kerrie Fallon,
Susan James, Kevin O'Brien, Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent: Lin Baker

Others Present: Paul Ottenstein, Consumer Advocate for DMH
Paolo Marinelli, Pedestrian Advocate
Heidi Hample, Disability Advocate
Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator

DMH Peer Leadership Forum:

Paul Ottenstein said that DMH is advocating for peer support within DMH in order to help support statewide services. In this effort DMH has been holding annual conferences where clients have had an opportunity to talk about their experiences with recovery. Paul said the conferences usually last about four to five hours. Paul said that DMH plans to hold this type of a conference at the Arlington Town Hall on Wednesday October 22, 2008. Jack Jones said that the Arlington Disability Commission has agreed to co-sponsor this event, and will probably have a table at the event to promote the work of the Arlington Disability Commission. Barbara Cutler said that DMR has had a history of providing leadership training and self-advocacy. Kerrie Fallon said that the Disability Commission would need to determine what role it wants to have at the conference. Paul said the conference is open to the general public but that most attendees will be individuals that have been involved with DMH. Barbara Cutler requested that Paul send a letter to the Commission regarding this event and indicate what will be an appropriate role for the Arlington Disability Commission. Kerrie Fallon said that the Commission after reviewing the letter would decide on the Commission's role.

Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2008:

Barbara Cutler made a motion seconded by Janice Dallas to approve the meeting minutes. SO VOTED

Job Fair:

Jack Jones said that Greg Ames, Placement Coordinator for the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, has requested that the Disability Commission decide on a date, preferably this fall, in order to co-sponsor a Job Fair at the Arlington Town Hall. Greg Ames indicated that the Arlington Commission could have very little involvement or more involvement in this Job Fair. Barbara Cutler said that the Commission would need to decide upon a date for the Job Fair at the May Meeting.

CDBG Funding:

Kevin O'Brien said the Selectmen and Town Manager have decided to provide \$62,097 in CDBG funding for curb cut ramp work. Kevin said that in addition to the \$62,097 the Selectmen and Town Manager have agreed to reprogram another \$15,000 in CDBG funds from this past year for curb cut ramp work. Barbara Cutler asked if any CDBG funding had been approved from the requested \$25,000 for ADA consulting services. Kevin O'Brien said that no CDBG funds were approved for ADA consulting services.

Summer Street Neighborhood Meeting:

Kerrie Fallon said that a meeting has been scheduled for April 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the completion of the Summer Street Project. The meeting will be held at the Peirce Elementary School located on Park Ave. Extension.

Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS):

Kevin O'Brien said that the Town Manager has been working with Mass. Highway for at least twelve months in order to have the APS signals on Summer Street work as designed. Kevin said that after a frustrating year of being unable to have the APS equipment work as designed the Town Manager has come to the conclusion that the technology is not there to regulate the sound of the locator as designed and has therefore requested that the locator signal be turned off until the technology improves. Kevin O'Brien said that over the past year the Town Manager has received many complaints from residents in the neighborhood of Summer Street complaining about the volume level of the locator signal. Kevin O'Brien said that the Town Manager had wanted the locator signal on if Mass Highway were able to have the volume level work as designed. Kerrie Fallon suggested that the Town listen to the APS signals installed in Brookline that appear to work as required. Paolo Marinelli said that the locator on the APS signals in Lexington appear to also work as required. Barbara Cutler said that law does not require APS; however equal access is being denied. Barbara Jones said that when APS is installed regulations state that they cannot be turned off. Barbara Jones said that a professional arbitrator had contacted herself about arbitrating the APS issue between three members of the Summer St. Neighborhood Association and three members from the Disability Commission. Barbara Jones said that in her opinion arbitration on this issue would not be appropriate.

Barbara Cutler made a motion that the Disability Commission is against deactivating any APS. Barbara Jones seconded the motion. SO VOTED

Annual Town Report:

Jack Jones said that the Commission has submitted a report to Town Meeting on each of the past two years. Barbara Cutler suggested that Kerrie Fallon as Chairperson prepare this years report and read the report at Town Meeting

Other Business:

Jack Jones said that Joe Connelly, Director of Recreation, said that there is an accessible swing at Spy Pond Field and Magnolia Field. Jack Jones said that Joe talked to the designer of the Stratton School Play Field about including an accessible swing in the plans for the Stratton School Play Field. Paolo Marinelli said that the Town of Lexington has indicated a desire to plow snow and ice from the Minutemen Trail in Lexington. Kerrie Fallon said that at the May Meeting the Commission would need to talk about Commission Membership. Janice Dallas expressed concern about the placement of handicapped parking spaces. Janice said that at the handicapped parking space located just west of Mystic Street on Massachusetts Avenue a disabled person with an accessible van is unable to exit an accessible van because of a tree adjacent to the handicapped space. Janice said that she would discuss this concern with John Bean, Director of Public Works.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.